

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

PLEASE PASS RODMAN/ADAMS/BORG FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. HERewith FULL TEXT EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN, MONDAY,
MARCH 17 WASHPOST TITLED "HIDDEN MIDEAST PERSUADERS".

2. THE QUIET WORD OF PRAISE DROPPED BY A HIGH FORD
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL INTO THE EAR OF SEN. DANIEL INOUE
WHEN HE RETURNED FROM ISRAEL LAST MONTH DREW THE VEIL FROM
A MASTER POLITICAL LEVER BEING USED IN SECRETARY OF STATE
HENRY KISSINGER'S LATEST ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY
BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND CAIRO.

3. THE LEVER IS ISRAEL'S DEAD-SERIOUS REQUEST FOR A
WHOPPING \$2.59 BILLION IN U.S. AID, A LARGE AMOUNT OF
WHICH (NOT YET REVEALED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT) WILL BE
ASKED AS AN OUTRIGHT GRANT. A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR--BUT MORE
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TENUOUS--HIDDEN PERSUADER IS ALSO READY TO BE USED INDI-

RECTLY TO PRESSURE EGYPT'S PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT.

4. ALTHOUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT DENIES THAT THE ISRAELI AID REQUEST IS BEING EMPLOYED TO INDUCE MORE BARGAINING FLEXIBILITY IN PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN'S GOVERNMENT, THE FACT IS OTHERWISE. THAT WAS PROVED BY THE QUIET WORD

OF PRAISE FOR INOUE, THE HAWAII DEMOCRAT WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AID.

5. THE PRAISE WAS SPECIFICALLY FOR INOUE'S WARNING TO BOTH RABIN AND HIS TOP ECONOMIC ADVISERS THAT THE \$2.59 BILLION REQUEST WOULD GET SHARP SCRUTINY AND VIRTUALLY CERTAIN REDUCTION BY A CONGRESS FACING RECESSION AND RECORD BUDGET DEFICITS AT HOME.

6. INDEED, THE WHITE HOUSE IS WITHHOLDING ITS OWN DECISION ON WHETHER TO RECOMMEND THE FULL ISRAELI REQUEST TO CONGRESS. THAT DECISION WILL BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE SINAI NEGOTIATIONS.

7. IF ISRAEL SHOWS SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY IN KISSINGER'S EFFORT TO ARRANGE A MAJOR PULLBACK FROM THE STRATEGIC SINAI PASSES AND THE ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS, AND A HARD AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH CAIRO, PRESIDENT FORD MIGHT RECOMMEND THE WHOLE AMOUNT AND CONGRESS MIGHT APPROPRIATE IT.

8. THE U.S. LEVER ON SADAT IS MORE MACHIAVELLIAN: ENLIST THE VALUED POLITICAL SUPPORT OF SAUDI ARABIA'S KING FAISAL BEHIND THE SINAI AGREEMENT. IF SYRIA AND OTHER MILITANT ARAB STATES TRY TO UNDERMINE SADAT FOR MAKING A "SEPARATE PEACE" WITH ISRAEL, KING FAISAL WILL PROVIDE AN OFFSET AND SUPPORT SADAT'S SINAI DEAL.

9. KING FAISAL IS NOW BUYING SLIGHTLY MORE THAN \$1 BILLION IN U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT DURING THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30. THAT IS ON TOP OF ANOTHER BILLION DOLLARS FAISAL HAS ALREADY PURCHASED IN CHOICE MILITARY UNCLASSIFIED

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GOODS. HENCE, THE AMERICAN LEVER ON FAISAL: HELP SADAT AND THE U.S. SELL THE SINAI AGREEMENT TO THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD OR RISK INTERRUPTIONS IN THE VAST U.S. AID PROGRAM.

10. FAISAL IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO HELP. AS PERHAPS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS MOSLEM LEADER IN THE ARAB WORLD, HIS APPROVAL OF A MAJOR EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT

WOULD BE WEIGHTY. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, SADAT LEANS HEAVILY ON THE KING FOR MONEY TO REBUILD THE DESTROYED TOWNS AND CITIES ALONG THE SUEZ CANAL, GRANTS HE COULD NOT OBTAIN ANYWHERE ELSE. THUS, A PROD FROM FAISAL ENCOURAGING SADATEVEN BEFORE AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

11. AS A STAUNCH U.S. FRIEND WHO BOTH DESPISES AND FEARS SOVIET COMMUNISM, FAISAL KNOWS THAT IF SINAI SETTLEMENT IS A PRELUDE TO A GENERAL SETTLEMENT, SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE ARAB WORLD WILL PREDICTABLY DECLINE. BUT HE IS ALSO DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS AND HE IS NOT PRONE TO SUBMITTING TO PRESSURES. MOREOVER, FAISAL PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL OIL CRISIS. THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, THEREFORE, HAS ALL THE MORE REASON TO PLAY ITS SAUDI CARD CAREFULLY.

12. THE MOST CONSPICUOUS HIDDEN PERSUADER THAT THE U.S. LACKS IN KISSINGER'S MEDIATION DIPLOMACY IS IN DAMASCUS. SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD HAS BEEN SETTING A CAREFUL STAGE FOR BLASTING EGYPT AND SADAT IF THE SINAI AGREEMENT FAILS TO POINT A SURE WAY TOWARD AN EARLY SYRIAN-ISRAELI DEAL ON THE FAR TOUGHER PROBLEM OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

13. ACTING IN CONCERT WITH SYRIA, IF ASSAD DOES TRY TO UPSET A SINAI AGREEMENT, IS THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO). KISSINGER'S HOPE IS TO PERSUADE ASSAD AND THE PLO THAT, ON THE STRENGTH OF A SINAI AGREEMENT, HE CAN BE TRUSTED TO EXTRACT SIMILAR CONCESSIONS FROM ISRAEL SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE ON THE OTHER TWO FRONTS.

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14. SINCE THAT WILL REQUIRE ISRAELI COOPERATION, THE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR \$2.59 BILLION IN IMMEDIATE AMERICAN AID IS THE BEST BARGAINING TOOL HE HAS. (END TEXT).
ROBINSON

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